

CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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Issued by:

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- Wheat stem rust was found in a south central Texas plot
- Wheat leaf rust is slowly increasing throughout the southern U.S.
- Wheat stripe rust is severe throughout the southern wheat growing area of the U.S.

Winter wheat growth and development is near normal maturity. In the spring grain area of the northern plains, cold temperatures with recent rain in the last week have slowed field work and planting.

Wheat stem rust. In mid-April, wheat stem rust was found for the first time in 2003 in a plot of the susceptible cultivar McNair 701 in southern Texas at Uvalde.

Wheat leaf rust. In mid-April, even with the dry conditions, leaf rust was increasing throughout Texas, but overall leaf rust was lighter than normal for this time of the year (Fig. 1). In a central Texas nursery on the susceptible cultivar Jagger the leaves were completely dead because of the rust. During mid-April, leaf rust was increasing in southern Oklahoma on susceptible cultivars.

In mid-April, from central Louisiana, through Alabama to Georgia light amounts of leaf rust were observed in research plots and fields. Leaf rust incidence and severity should increase in the next few weeks with increased rainfall and warmer temperatures.

Wheat stripe rust. In mid-April, stripe rust development was decreasing in south Texas, but it still was possible to find some fresh pustules at all locations. In central and north central Texas, stripe rust was severe even though much of the area has been under drought conditions (Fig. 2). This was the worst stripe rust infection ever in central Texas.

By mid-April, stripe rust was severe in southern Louisiana nurseries, with 80% of the leaf area affected in susceptible varieties. Throughout Louisiana stripe rust was increasing and many fields were sprayed with fungicides to reduce yield losses. Wheat cultivars Terral LA422 and AGS 2000, which are widely grown in Louisiana, were susceptible to stripe rust. Significant amounts of stripe rust have occurred in four of the last six years in Louisiana.

In mid-April, stripe rust was increasing in southern and eastern Arkansas fields and many of the fields were being sprayed with fungicides. Rust was found on most of the commonly grown cultivars. Numerous hot spots (foci) of rust infection were found throughout the area. However, the stripe rust development is likely too late to cause significant losses unless cool, wet weather develops.



In mid-April, severe stripe rust was found in southern Georgia varietal plots at Plains with the most susceptible lines at 80-100% severity. Entire plots were rusted indicating a uniform spore shower, not just isolated disease foci. This was the most severe stripe rust ever seen at this location. Stripe rust (less than 5% severity) was also found at Griffin, Georgia April 14 on a few susceptible lines.

Oat stem rust. In mid-April, stem rust was increasing in southern Texas nurseries. Stem rust infections were equal to last year's in this area.

Oat crown rust. By mid-April, oat crown rust was heavier than normal across central and southern Texas, despite the dry conditions, and more virulent on some lines than it was last year.

Buckthorn. Buds on buckthorn, the alternate host for oat crown rust, are just beginning to break in the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota. This is later than normal for most years.

Barley stem rust. No barley stem rust has yet been found in 2003.

Barley leaf rust. As of April 22, no barley leaf rust has been reported in the U.S.

Stripe rust on barley. There have been no reports of stripe rust on barley since CRB #1.

Rye rusts. There have been no new reports of rye leaf rust since CRB #1



Fig. 1. Leaf rust severities in wheat fields - April 23, 2003

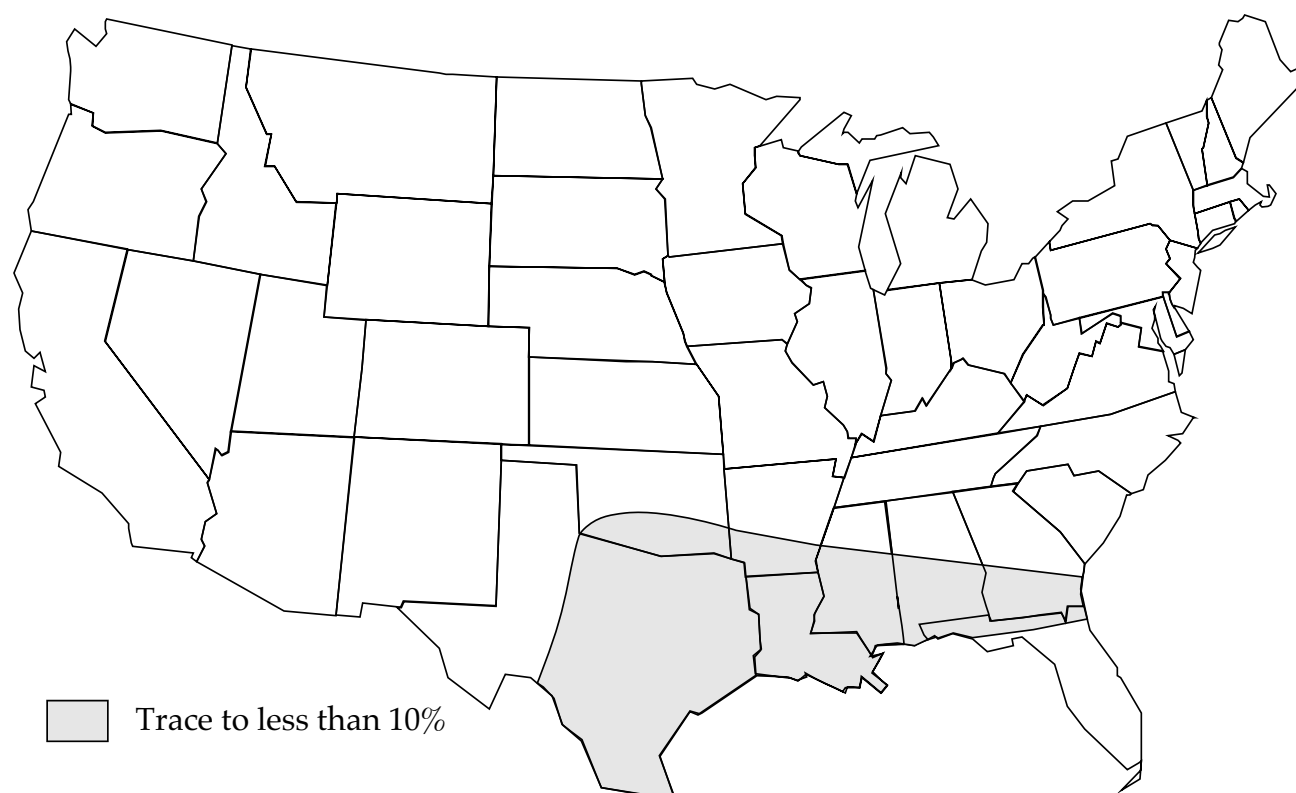


Fig. 2. Stripe rust severities in wheat fields - April 23, 2003

